GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PLANNING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1764
ANSWERED ON:12.03.2008
RELATING ECONOMIC GROWTH RATE WITH SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to relate economic growth rate with social development in the country as reported in the Hindu, dated February 03, 2008;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken to continue relating economic growth rate with social development?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI M.V. RAJASEKHARAN)

(a) to (c): The news item in the Hindu dated 3rd February 2008 quoting Thandika Mkandawire Director of Geneva based U.N. Research Institute for Social Development states that India has to relate economic growth rate with social development. India's development strategy traditionally recognizes the importance of social development in the growth process. The Eleventh Plan has set the growth target for the economy at 9% per year for the plan period (2007-12) and aims at putting the economy on a sustainable growth trajectory with a growth of approximately 10% by the end of its period. The target is not just faster growth but also inclusive growth, i.e. a growth process which yields broad based benefits and ensures equality of opportunity for all. This broad vision of the Eleventh Plan includes several inter related components: rapid growth that reduces poverty and creates employment opportunities, access to essential services in health and education especially for the poor, equality of opportunity, empowerment through education and skill development, employment opportunities underpinned by the National Rural Employment Guarantee, environmental sustainability, recognition of women's agency and good governance. The vision of inclusiveness in the Eleventh Plan, therefore, encompass equality of opportunity, as well as economic and social mobility for all sections of society, with affirmative action for the Scheduled Castes, the Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes (OBCs), minorities and women. For realizing this vision of inclusivesness, the Eleventh Plan has not only set targets for the rate of growth of GDP, but also set monitorable targets for other dimensions of performance such as, in the area of poverty reduction, education, health, women and children issues, infrastructure and environment.